

SENATOR FRYE TALKS

Resumption of Commercial Relations
With Spain Expected.

DISPOSITION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Not Bound by the Treaty to
Retain Them.

RESTORATION IMPOSSIBLE

Senator Frye talked very interestingly to
a Star reporter this morning with respect
to the conditions attending and resulting
from the peace negotiations, without en-
croaching upon the secrecy of the treaty.

With respect to the frequently repeated
statement in press dispatches that the sen-
timents of the powers, with the exception
of England, was opposed to the United
States and looked with disfavor upon the
attitude of this government in dealing with
Spain, Senator Frye said:

"I saw no evidence of such sentiment
existing outside of France, and in France
that sentiment appeared to be confined to
the press, which does not reflect the sen-
timent of the nation nor of the people gen-
erally. The character of the French press
is not such as to render its expressions re-
presentative or influential. The treatment
of the American commissioners received from
the representatives of the French govern-
ment, officials and business men was cordial.
I could not have been more so, and I am
glad to say that I am not a hostile
feeling. It had a long talk with prominent
business men who called on me to discuss

the question of commercial relations be-
tween France and the United States and to
canvass the question of what might be done
in the way of reciprocity. They dwelt par-
ticularly upon the friendly relations be-
tween the two countries and urged that
reciprocal commercial arrangements might
be made which would be mutually benefi-
cial and bring us still closer together. I
suggested to these gentlemen that the French
did not seem to indicate that cordial
feeling which they expressed, and they
replied that it was well known what was
the character of the press there, and that it
did not represent the sentiments of the
French people. I told them that the French
might be done by way of a treaty, and sug-
gested a line of negotiation which might be
followed out.

"The fact is that the utmost good feeling
was manifested on all sides during our
negotiations. The Spanish commissioners
themselves were friendly and cordial in
their manner, and we parted with them
with manifestations of good feeling. The
German ambassador called on us and gave
evidence to the most cordial feeling in
behalf of his government, and on every
side we met with courtesy."

Future Attitude of Spain.

"Do you think there will be an early
restoration of cordial relations between
Spain and the United States?"
"I think that very soon after the ratifica-
tion of the peace treaty and the restora-
tion of diplomatic relations there will be
difficulty about negotiating commercial
treaties and a treaty for the release of
prisoners, and such other matters directed
toward the perfect restoration of friendly
relations between the two governments. I
do not believe that the Spanish government
will be at all disposed to keep up unfriend-
ly feeling between the two governments.
What has been published about the treaty
if it is correct, shows that this matter of
renewal of treaties was left open for fu-
ture negotiation and that the United States
did not make any commitment in this re-
spect. I think we all parted with the
present conditions will be better than
what the restoration of the old treaties,
some of which were obsolete."

Disposition of the Philippines.

"It indicates very strongly that this gov-
ernment is not committed in any way
whatever with respect to the disposition
and government of these islands. If we were
insane enough to do so, we might give them
all back to Spain after the ratification of
the treaty. If we were fools, we might
divide them up among the other foreign
powers. The whole matter is left in the
hands of Congress. One of the things
of our disposition of the islands is
The ratification of the treaty will not in
any way curtail our privileges in this dis-
position."

"Do you think the treaty will be ratified
at an early date?"
"I do not know what the disposition of
the Senate will be. I think the treaty will
be sent to Congress soon after the holidays,
and I do not see how it can be received. The
matter is properly before the Senate, and
it is up to them to decide whether they
will ratify it. Surely, there can be no
intelligent man in the United States, un-
less he is a Spaniard, who would oppose
the restoration of these islands to Spain.
Senator Hoar surely cannot advocate such
a thing. I can only hope that the Sen-
ate will have a sense of the propriety of
his having such an idea in his mind."

Cruelty of the Spanish.

"You can hardly conceive anything more
outrageous and horrible than has been the
Spanish government of the Philippines. The
evidence furnished us of cruelty and bar-
barity, disclosed a situation far more shock-
ing than anything we have heard of the
Spanish treatment in Cuba. The practices
of the inquisition were in vogue. Colonel
Whittier showed us a number of atrocities,
made by a Filipino, who was a Spanish
prisoner, illustrating the modes of torture
employed upon prisoners by the Spanish
religious orders. Not only the Spaniards,
but the religious orders are doing great good,
but by the religious orders, the shocking
cruelty practiced by these people upon the
inhabitants of the Philippines is too hor-
rible for contemplation. One of the statu-
ettes represented a man with a ring
through his nose attached to a rope run-
ning through a pulley to the ceiling, and a

frier lifting him off his feet by the nose
and then letting him down, to make him
confess that he was a Mason. Another
was a man with his ankles in stocks, and
a friar inflicting upon him the bastinado
to make him confess he belonged to a se-
cret society. Photographs were shown us
of the shooting of hundreds of natives
there by the Spanish soldiers, the prisoners
bound and flung along the street, the
soldiers facing them and it was made a
grand fete and holiday. The pictures show-
ed the crowds assembled, and the men
lined up just before they were shot; an-
other showed them falling after the order
had been given to fire, and they were
photographed lying dead on the ground.
The stories of horrors, the people suffocated
in the black hole, the testimony of pho-
tography, and that taken from reliable wit-
nesses, disclosed a brutality inflicted upon
the Philippines under the Spanish rule equal
to any of the horrors of the Inquisition."

Restoration Not to Be Thought Of.

"Surely, Senator Hoar will not nor will
any other intelligent man advocate our
turning these people back to the mercy of
the Spanish government. Senator Hoar is
a Christian gentleman, a man of the finest
feelings, a New England man strongly im-
bued with the New England spirit of lib-
erty and humanity. He surely would not
suggest the restoration of the Philippines to
Spain. I believe that there is a Divine Pro-
vidence that directs the fate of nations as
surely as it does that of men. These islands
have fallen to our lot, and there is an ob-
ligation of Christianity and civilization
which we cannot avoid. This guiding Pro-
vidence has placed before this work to be
done in the furtherance of civilization
and humanity, and coupled with the ob-
ligations are associated recompense in the
wide field of commercial development which
must attend our progress in that direction.
Looking at the question from a purely com-
mercial standpoint, aside from the moral
obligation, I do not believe that there is
an intelligent business man in the United
States who will say that the Philippines
should be restored to Spain or who will fail
to acknowledge the almost incalculable
commercial advantage which the possession
of these islands will give us. They give us
a foothold in that vast region of the
orient where the powers of Europe are con-
centrated, and they give us a means of
tending for a great trade and commerce,
the richest in the world, and will enable us
to preserve our interests and get our share
of the commerce and to maintain those com-
mercial advantages which a nation to be
prosperous must possess. No one will say
that the United States should disregard its
own commercial interests and give these
islands—divide them up and distribute them
—out among the powers who are our busi-
ness rivals. The suggestion that we could
sell these islands is one not likely to be
considered by self-respecting Americans."

Capability of the Natives.

"Do you think from what evidence you
had that the Filipinos are capable of citi-
zenship?"
"I think that with patience and wisdom
in government, that by treating the people
of the Philippines justly, that nearly the
entire population of the Philippines Islands
will be an intelligent, industrious, prosper-
ous, self-sustaining and contented people.
The testimony of Gen. Merritt and Col.
Whittier, who have investigated the mat-
ter and made a study of the people, speaks
in the highest terms of them, as intelli-
gent, industrious and contented people. If
we do not send carpet baggers and political
hackers and adventurers with an eye to mak-
ing money there to govern these people, if
we show wisdom and sincerity of purpose,
there will be no serious difficulty in the
way of their becoming citizens. If we cannot
be admitted as a state of the Union, they
must be governed by us at first some-
what in the manner of the British govern-
ment in East India. But no matter what
method of government we now adopt, there
will be nothing in the way, by reason of
its present adoption, of those islands be-
coming a part of the United States if, at
the end of 100 years or any other period,
their development should be such as to
render the establishment of that relation
wise and proper."

SENATOR DAVIS TALKS.

Says the Work of the Peace Commis-
sioners is Satisfactory.

Senator Cushman K. Davis, a member of
the Paris peace commission, and chairman
of the Senate committee on foreign rela-
tions, was seen by a Star reporter in his
committee room at the Capitol this morn-
ing. It was the first visit the senator had
made to the Capitol since his return here.

"I have been extremely gratified," said
Senator Davis, "to learn that the American
people generally approve the work of the
peace commission. It often happens in
Paris that, after we have taken some im-
portant action, we would not learn for ten
or twelve days how it had been received by
the people."

When asked in regard to the way the
commission regarded the terms it had se-
cured from Spain, and whether they were
looked upon as satisfactory, he said:

"Yes, and we are inclined to feel satisfied,
and exceedingly gratified, with the appar-
ent approval which our labors seem to
have been received here."

Speaking of the reception of the com-
missioners in Paris, Senator Davis remark-
ed that, officially and socially, they were
treated with the greatest courtesy.

"Our intercourse with the French com-
missioners from beginning to end," he said,
"was courteous, and our parting was ex-
ceedingly friendly in manner and expres-
sion. I think we all parted with mutual
esteem—personal esteem."

"Uncertain as to Senate Feeling."
Senator Davis said he had not seen any
of his colleagues in the Senate since his
return, with the exception of Senator Nel-
sen, and he had no idea what the feeling
in that body was in regard to the treaty.
He said he hoped the treaty would be dis-
posed of at the present session of Congress,
and that an extra session for that purpose
would not be necessary.

The senator spent the day yesterday at
his home on Massachusetts avenue, where
he has been receiving here.

"One thing we did while in Paris," he
said, "we gave our undivided attention to
the work of the commission. Not one of
the commission made any excursion for
pleasure anywhere. We did not leave Paris.
Our whole time was given to the work with
which we had been intrusted."

Mr. Davis spoke of the Spanish com-
missioners in the highest terms. He said they

were courteous gentlemen and patriots, and
intelligent Spaniards who had performed
their duty toward their government with
the greatest conscientiousness.

OFFICIALS AT THEIR DESKS.
Secretaries Ray and Alger at the De-
partments.

Although business was generally sus-
pended in all the up-town departments today
in observance of the Christmas holiday,
several of the higher officials found it nec-
essary to spend several hours in their offices
during the course of the day. Secretary
Hay was the first of the number to appear
at the department. He arrived before 10
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after noon. He said that he had no
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come to the office to dispose of some press-
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